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***Proterospastis orientalis* Petersen, 1959, a species new
to the lepidopterofauna of Malta, Greece and the
whole of Europe
(Lepidoptera: Tineidae, Tineinae)**

R. Gaedike, P. Sammut & A. Seguna

Abstract

Proterospastis orientalis (Petersen, 1959) is here reported for the first time from Malta, Greece and the whole of Europe. In the Maltese Islands, the genus *Proterospastis* is now represented by three species, *P. merdella* Zeller, 1852, the recently recorded *P. autochthones* Walsingham, 1907, and *P. orientalis* Petersen, 1959.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Tineidae, *Proterospastis orientalis*, new record, Malta, Greece, Europe.

***Proterospastis orientalis* Petersen, 1959, una especie nueva para la lepidopterofauna de Malta,
Grecia y también para Europa
(Lepidoptera: Tineidae, Tineinae)**

Resumen

Proterospastis orientalis (Petersen, 1959) se cita por primera vez para Malta, Grecia y también para Europa. En Malta el género *Proterospastis* ahora está representado por tres especies: *P. merdella* Zeller, 1852; *P. autochthones* Walsingham, 1907, recientemente registrado, y *P. orientalis* Petersen, 1959.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Tineidae, *Proterospastis orientalis*, nueva cita, Malta, Grecia, Europa.

Introduction

The family Tineidae is represented in Europe by a total of 278 species in 52 genera (Gaedike, recent investigation and unpublished data). For the Maltese Islands, SAMMUT (2000), records 25 species included in 14 genera. Recently, GAEDIKE & ZERAFA (2010) added five species to the list of Tineidae from Malta, bringing the total to 30 species in 16 genera. This short note adds a further species. In Europe, up to the records of Gaedike and Zerafa and this new record, the genus *Proterospastis* was represented by only two species, *P. merdella* and *P. quadruplella* (Caradja, 1920) (GAEDIKE, 2009).

Adults of Tineidae in Europe range from 5 mm to 50 mm in wingspan. The majority of species construct portable cases in the larval stage where they also pupate. They feed on almost anything, from lichens, fungi, algae, seeds, dried fruits and stored vegetable foodstuffs to animal products like hair, feathers, wool and skins and because of such feeding habits, many are regarded as pests (PARENTI, 2000).

From material examined by the senior author and collected along the years by the co-authors, amongst species already known from Malta, *P. orientalis*, hitherto unrecorded for Malta and which is also new to Europe, was discovered.

R. GAEDIKE, P. SAMMUT & A. SEGUNA

Proterospastis orientalis (Petersen, 1959)

MALTA: 2 ♂♂, Naxxar, 3, 28-VI-2001 [Gen.Prep., Gaedike, no: 7187, 7188], leg. and coll. A. Seguna. GREECE: 2 ♂♂, SW Crete, Makrigialos, Aspros Patamos, 4, 9-IX-2001 [Gen. Prep., Sutter, no: 7517], leg. R. Sutter; SMNK [Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe].

The two specimens from Malta were collected at a light trap using 16W UV light. Naxxar is an urban area surrounded by agricultural land. Colour photo was taken using a Nikon digital camera D70s and Nikon 60mm macronikkor lens (fig. 1). Because of the poor state of preservation of the available material we thought it would be better to supplement the image of *P. orientalis* with a translation of the original description.

Original description: Wingspan 10 mm, Head brush brownish, forewings dirty white with brownish scales, mostly on apex; at 2/3 a woolly brown dot. On the underside at this place a clear hyaline dot, similar to the one in *Monopis* species.

Distribution: Hitherto, the species was known from Afghanistan, the type locality.



Fig. 1.— *Proterospastis orientalis* (Petersen, 1959) - MALTA, Naxxar, ♂, 28-VI-2010.

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